

two inches, or even more." This account gives no indication of the changing position of the pylorus from the "transpyloric plane" to below the level of the umbilicus, the common position to see the pylorus in X-ray photographs.

These criticisms are not made in any carping spirit, in a book which is recognized as being so accurate in its descriptions, but rather to point out that the mere memorizing of detailed descriptions, without any regard for their relative and clinical importance, is not in keeping with modern trends in anatomy.

**DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR.** By Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone, 1937. pp. 420; figs. 55. Price 10s. 6d.

This book is intended for senior students and general practitioners. It deals in a very practical manner with the commoner diseases of the ear, nose, and throat likely to be met with in general practice. It is compact and easily read.

The coloured frontispiece is rather diagrammatic. It is not usual to see the cone of light so clear and regular in cases with large, old-standing perforations; otherwise the diagrams are very good and might with benefit be more numerous.

The chapter on Adenoids is very complete. The treatment of acute tonsillitis is rather sketchy; no mention is made of anti-streptococcal serum or drugs of the sulphonamide group in the severe infections. In the treatment of diphtheria, it is recommended to give five hundred units of anti-toxin in doubtful cases. This would appear to be a very small dose: five thousand units is the more usual amount.

Agranulocytic angina is mentioned, but drugs which produce an artificial leucocytosis, such as pent-nucleotide, are omitted. Acute oedema of the glottis is very well done, especially the indications for laryngotomy and tracheotomy.

In the description of catheterization of the Eustachian tube, it is more usual to place the auscultation tube in the patient's ear before passing the catheter; this tends to prevent jarring movements which are painful for the patient.

The technique of paracentesis is described in detail. It is recommended to incise the drum from above downwards; this is against all teaching, as the danger of dislocation of the stapes is greater than when the incision is from below upwards.

The chapter on chronic otitis media is exceptionally clear, practical, and concise. The special features of infection by the pneumococcus type III (strep. mucosus) are clearly defined.

The author has succeeded in his task, and his work can be confidently recommended to all students and practitioners.

**DISEASES OF THE NOSE AND THROAT.** By Sir St. Sinclair Thomson, M.D., F.R.C.S., and V. E. Negus, M.S., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. London : Cassell & Co., Ltd., 1937. pp. 976; figs. 386; plates (many coloured), 29. Price 45s. net.

This book, first published in 1911 as the personal experiences of Sir St. Sinclair Thomson, has now reached its fourth edition, after passing through several reprintings. This proof of the high esteem in which it is held must be highly gratifying to its author, and is ample evidence of its high value to any young man setting out on the study of diseases of the nose and throat. The present edition is considerably larger than the original work, due to a greater amount of space given to illustrations, and to detailed attention given to the many advances in our knowledge of the subject. These changes render the work even more readable than any of the earlier editions, and the authors are to be congratulated on what is really the standard English work on the nose and throat.

The changes in this present edition include a very full description of the technique of local anæsthesia, and a valuable assay of the intra-tracheal method of general anæsthesia. The two

chief methods for the removal of diseased tonsils—with the guillotine and by dissection, are fully described; but the surgeon is wisely left to make his own choice after consideration of the circumstances of the case. Considerable changes have been made in the chapter on affections of the trachea and bronchi; and abscess, bronchiectasis, neoplasms, and the technique of lipiodol injections, are described according to present-day knowledge.

Progress in the study of intrinsic cancer of the larynx has justified the choice of a number of surgical procedures, and other methods, including a brief description of Hautant's operation for cases where the extent or situation of the growth hardly justifies complete laryngectomy.

The section on Pre-oral Endoscopy has been entirely rewritten by Mr. Negus. Instruments and head-rests are described, both for efficiency in examination and treatment, and also in an effort to make the surgeon less dependent on trained assistants. These are a few of the many indications of the wide scope of its teaching. But every phase of the subject discussed bears throughout its pages the stamp of that soundness of judgment which is obtained only after years of patient study and work, and is a monument to the industry and patience of two of the best-known laryngologists of our time.

**MANUAL OF PRACTICAL ANATOMY.** By J. E. Frazer and R. H. Robbins.

London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1937. Vol. I—Upper and Lower Limbs and Abdomen : pp. 536, figs. 281. Vol. II—Thorax, Head, and Neck and Nervous System : pp. 454, figs. 290. Price 10s. 6d. each volume.

British Anatomy appears to-day to be torn by conflicting views, not on problems of anatomy, but on methods and standards of teaching. Should human anatomy be taught in detail as a mere exercise in memory? Should it be taught only on general morphological principles? Should it be taught in a mere cursory manner? Different teachers appear to hold such strong opinions in support of one or other of these contentions, that they go so far as to publish students' textbooks based on their views. Professor J. E. Frazer and Dr. R. H. Robbins appear to support the last of the above views, and they have published two volumes of dissecting manuals which are stated by them to "follow the curriculum and the accepted teaching" of, presumably, the London medical schools, to which both authors are attached. If this is so, then indeed may the provincial schools hold high their heads, for the standard of knowledge in these volumes is lower than the teaching in any of the provincial schools known to the writer of this review. The statement, "The skin hardly requires introduction," is what one might find in a popular first-aid manual, but is strangely out of place in a work presented to medical students, as is the description, "Nerves are white cords." Then, too, in a book which professes to prepare a student for "his future work," the description of the palmar spaces compressed to three lines is rather astonishing, as is the very elementary description of the ischio-rectal fossa, and many other dissections which have important bearings in clinical surgery.

The books are illustrated by many excellent line-drawings, but the presence of many old figures taken from Hirschfeld and Leveillé detract considerably from their worth; and why the same figure of the sympathetic system should be reproduced on three separate pages (figs. 216, 239, and 245) is not apparent, for its value to the student dissecting for the first time must be nil.

It is unfortunate that the volumes should have been written in what is known as the B.R. nomenclature, which has no advantages over the B.N.A., or the so-called "new terminology." How any committee of otherwise sensible men could have deluded themselves into the belief that they were doing anatomy a service by devising it is not clear, for it does not appear to be based either on morphological or philological grounds. Changes of the nature introduced in this terminology merely tend to make anatomy and anatomists the laughing stock of surgeons and physiologists; and those responsible for it could surely have found a better outlet for their energies in trying to advance knowledge of the subject which they teach, rather than wasting their time, and that of harassed students, with a new and unfortunate vocabulary.